

The Alexandria Gazette

FRIDAY EVENING, NOV'R. 20.

Reminiscences of the "Old Town."

BY SENEX—No. 8.

The old dry goods store—The three ferries—Trade—Decadence, &c., &c.

On the corner of Pitt and King streets, was the dry goods store of Mr. A. Cazenove. I remember it particularly well, as it was there I made the purchase of my first suit of broad-cloth, and at the hands of the old gentleman himself. Boys, in those days, wore in the winter time, corduroy, a kind of cotton fabric—now, I think, out of use—and when this was doffed, it proved quite an epocha in a boy's life; it was the going out of the chrysalis into the butterfly, an exodus truly delightful. I was very proud of my cloth clothes, and I shall never forget them, nor Mr. Cazenove, nor the old dry goods store. One or two doors below was the bookstore of Mr. Gray, and on the opposite side of the street, but a little lower down, was another bookstore, kept by Mr. Kennedy, a Scotch gentleman, and a most estimable man.

There were three ferries leading from Alexandria to the Maryland shore, viz: Rozier's—the lowest, Oxen Hill and Marbury's, or Blue Plains. There were no steamboats then, and the "Old Town," enjoyed a large trade, wholesale as well as retail. The river counties of Maryland and Virginia dealt almost exclusively here, and the merchants grew rich. I have seen many ships and other square rigged vessels at the wharves, and riding at anchor, and many of them were owned in Alexandria. King street would, oftentimes, be jammed with wagons from various points, but chiefly from the Goshen of Virginia, the Shenandoah Valley. The town was, confessedly, the largest flour market in America, and the tobacco trade, too, was very large. Its decadence may be dated from the introduction of Railroads.—Baltimore was allowed by Virginia to stretch her Briarean arms into her territory, and when one of them reached Winchester, it clasped the valley trade, made Baltimore what it is, and left Alexandria like a shorn lamb. Every effort has been made to recover that which was lost, but no sooner was the Manassas railroad completed to Strasburg, than Baltimore was strongly represented at Richmond, praying the legislature to grant permission to extend her road from Winchester to Strasburg! Several efforts were made, and the last had like to have been successful! This is surprising, as Virginia owns three fifths of the road.

There is not a living being now in the town of Alexandria that I knew fifty years ago, and but a very few names that were once familiar to me. I can count but five or six!—But where are the Riddles, the Slacums, the Marstellers, the Herterts, the Deneales, the Dulanys, the Pages, the Swifts, the Pattons, the Nicholises, the Kinkadds, the Butchers, the Mandevilles, the Kennedys, the Bennets, Wattses, Scholfields, Sangsters, Witherses, Dundasses, &c. Where are they? The very names are blotted out from the population of the Town!

Every decade of years brings its sorrows and afflictions, and he that leaves home but for that short time, must return prepared to weep over the memories of the dead. Such is life! *Mors equo pulsot pede* &c.; and we all must bow to the inevitable doom.

The Sandusky Bay and Johnson's Island excitement has died out and the troops are about to be sent home. There appears to have been not the slightest evidence as to the pretended plot, and the reports about the prisoners digging out of the quarters, and the finding of muskets, are pronounced false and absurd.

state of affairs for an unhealthy and precarious condition, even if it should cost sacrifices.—Let us meet without a preconceived system, without exclusive ambition, animated by the sole thought of establishing an order of things based henceforth upon the well understood interest of the Sovereigns and of the peoples.

"I cannot but believe that this appeal would be listened to by all. A refusal would lead to the supposition of secret projects which fear the light of day; but even if the proposal should not be unanimously adopted, it would have the immense advantage of having shown Europe where lies danger and where safety. Two ways are open; the one leads to progress through conciliation and peace, the other, sooner or later, conducts fatally to war by the obstinacy of maintaining a past which is rolling away.

"You know now, gentlemen, the tone which I propose to adopt toward Europe; approved by you, sanctioned by the public consent, it cannot fail to be listened to, for I speak in the name of France."

The speech attracts great attention but interpretations differ so widely that while some journals regard it as eminently pacific, others look on it as indicative of war. The Paris and London journals are alike at variance in their views of the speech. Vienna journals agree that the speech is calculated to create uneasiness. La France says that diplomatic overtures will follow the speech, and the European Congress may be considered as convoked.

WAR NEWS.

Advices from New Orleans to the 10th inst. have been received at New York. Further details from the Teche, relative to the late attack on General Washburne's advance, show that the Federal loss in killed, wounded and prisoners was 677. The 67th Indiana regiment was captured almost entire; the 60th Indiana and 69th Ohio lost heavily. The Confederates are reported to have outnumbered the Federals five to one. It is reported that the 13th army corps has been ordered to Texas, via the Gulf.

The intelligence received in Washington last night from the Army of the Potomac is that a cavalry skirmish between about two hundred Confederates and a portion of the 18th Pennsylvania cavalry, took place on Wednesday morning at Germanna Ford, on the Rapidan. The Confederates crossed the river, when the Federals fell back upon their infantry pickets. The loss is reported small, "some of the Pennsylvanians being captured."

On Wednesday night cannonading was heard in the direction of the Rapidan, south of Culpeper.

The New York Express of yesterday afternoon says:—"The great feature in financial circles this morning was the Gold speculation. There was increased excitement and animation in the market, and the price was run up to 153, but afterwards fell off to 152½, and rallied again to 152½. There was great interest manifested, and the attendance at the Gold Exchange was much larger than usual, while the operations were on a more extended scale.

A correspondent of the New York Herald, writing from the fleet off Mobile, states that the flag-ship Colorado and the Genesee recently had an engagement with the Ladies Ram, a vessel presented by the ladies of Mobile to the Confederates. The Genesee fired two shots and the Colorado three, when the ram immediately put back under Fort Morgan.

Another lot of 350 paroled prisoners, arrived at Annapolis from Richmond on Wednesday. Six of them died on the passage.

FROM EAST TENNESSEE.

A telegram from Knoxville to the New York Tribune, dated on Wednesday, states the Confederates commenced skirmishing with the Federal outposts from their position on the Kingston road at ten o'clock on that morning. The Federal advance, composed wholly of mounted infantry and cavalry, under Gen. Sanders, commanded the position.—At noon the Confederates opened with their artillery at short range, their battery being protected by a large house. "Benjamin's battery replied, occupying the chief fortification a mile in front and to the right of the town." The Confederates made a desperate charge about three P. M., the Federal forces being protected by rail barricades on the crest of the hills. General Sanders was severely wounded, and borne from the field. "The Federals yielded the position, and fell back about a third of a mile to a stronger one." The Federal loss is set down at about one hundred men, "one fourth of whom were killed." The telegram adds that the Confederates had completely invested the place, but General Burnside would defend it to the last man. Kingston is a small village, about twenty-five miles from Knoxville in a southeasterly direction, immediately upon the main road leading from Knoxville to Nashville. The presence of the Confederates in their present position shows that they have thrown themselves in the rear of Gen. Burnside, and between him and the main body of Gen. Grant's army.

DIED.

Early this morning, Mr. GEORGE W. COLE, in the 37th year of his age. The friends of the family are requested to attend his funeral, Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from the residence of William W. White, No. 81 Water street.

At Lancaster, Penn., on the 17th inst., Mrs. EVA HEAP, wife of G. H. Heap, Esq., and daughter of the late Commodore Porter.

In Washington, on the 13th instant, after a short and painful illness ABRAHAM J. BOSS, in the 69th year of his age, in the full assurance of a blessed immortality.

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oct 30—tf

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No. 45, South Union Street,

Between Prince and Duke, Alexandria, Va. nov 13—1m

HOUSES AND LOT FOR SALE BY AUCTION. On Tuesday next, 24th inst. I will offer at public sale a lot of ground on the west side of Fairfax, between Wolfe and Wilkes streets, belonging to the estate of Hanson Day, deceased, 20 feet front, and 90 deep, to a 12 feet alley—on which there are two frame dwellings, front and rear. Terms, cash within three days, or a resale at the expense and risk of the defaulting purchaser, upon five days' notice.

Sale to take place at 12½ o'clock, at the premises. W. L. PENN, Auctioneer. nov 17—ts